

State Governments and Central Government PSUs have been informed regarding AMRIT pharmacies and M/s HLL Lifecare Ltd. has been directed to consider the requests of State Governments and CPSUs for opening of AMRIT pharmacies at major State Government hospitals/Institutions/CPSU.

Affordable healthcare facilities

887. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the high costs of healthcare and exorbitant overcharging by hospitals from distressed patients;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for making affordable and standard healthcare facilities for the patients in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL): (a) and (b) The Government is aware of the reports appearing at different fora about some such cases of overcharging by the private healthcare establishments. Health being a State subject, the reports, as received by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India are referred to the concerned State Governments which regulate the hospitals/clinical establishments as per the provisions of Act and Rules applicable in the concerned State for providing affordable medical care for patients, and which maintain the details accordingly.

(c) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) on 23.09.2018. This scheme provides coverage of up to ₹ 5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary hospitalisation to over 10 crore poor and vulnerable families (approx. 50 crore families). This scheme covers poor and vulnerable families based on deprivation and occupational criteria as per Socio and Economic Caste Census, 2011 (SECC, 2011) data. PMJAY provides cashless and paperless access to services for the beneficiary at the point of service in any (both public and private) empanelled hospitals across India.

The Central Government, under the National Health Mission (NHM), provides financial and technical support to the States/UTs for strengthening their healthcare system for provision of accessible, affordable and quality healthcare to all the people. This support includes support for free maternal and child health, immunization,

communicable disease control programmes, prevention and management of non-communicable diseases, strengthening health systems such as physical infrastructure, augmenting health human resource on contractual basis, free ambulance services, free essential drugs and diagnostics, free blood, free dialysis services to the poor, mobile medical units, etc.

Further, the Ministry of Health and family welfare has started AMRIT (Affordable Medicines and reliable Implants for Treatment) stores where essential life saving medicines and implants are being provided at a substantial discount *vis-a-vis* the Maximum retail Price.

Also, the Government of India has enacted Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2010 for registration and regulation of all clinical establishments (both Government and Private) in the country. In accordance with the Clinical Establishments (Central Government) Rules, 2012 under the aforementioned Act, in the States/Union Territories where the said Act is in force, the clinical establishments are required to meet the norms such as minimum standards of facilities and services, minimum requirement of personnel, maintenance of records and reports and displaying of rates at a conspicuous place. The clinical establishments are also required to follow Standard Treatment Guidelines issued by the Central/State Governments and charge rates for each type of procedure and service within the range of rates determined from time to time in consultation with the State Governments. The implementation and enforcement of the said Act falls within the ambit of the States/Union territories.

Disparity in doctors practising across states

888. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some States in the country have more doctors than WHO norm of one per 1000 people, while other States are facing acute shortage of doctors and also cannot find enough doctors for rural public health system;

(b) if so, the number of States with more doctors than the prescribed norm and the States facing acute shortage of doctors;

(c) the percentage of doctors serving in Bangalore city and in remaining part of Karnataka; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to address the shortage of doctors in rural public health system and details thereof?